THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Area of Wasteland, fallow land and culturable waste land

1622. SHRI SOMPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of waste lands, fallow lands and culturable waste lands in our country in terms of area and percentage of total land;

(b) what is the break-up of such lands respectively;

(c) whether some plans have been made to make use of these various categories of lands;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT): (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) According to an estimate, the extent of the wastelands in the country is about 129.5 million hectares or about 39 per cent of the total land area. The State-wies details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

As regards fallow lands and culturable wastelands, their extent, according to the landuse classification estimates (1987-88) carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, is as follows:-

		Area (million hectares)	Percentage of total land area
1.	Fallow land	29.77	9.04
2.	Culturable waste lands	15.63	4.75

(c) and (d) Land is a State subject. The responsibility of bringing lands under productive use falls within the purview of the State Governments. However, the State Governments are assisted in their efforts through the Central programmes and schemes like the Wastelands Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Scheme for Reclamation of Ajkaline Lands in UP., Punjab and Haryana, Scheme of Integrated Water-shed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Areas, Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects, EEC assisted Projects of Reclamation of Ravinous Areas in Uttar Pradesh and Integrated Watershed Management in Gujarat, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Estimate of Wastlands in India

(*Area in Lakh Hectares*)

States/UT	Total
Andhra Pradesh	114.16
Assam	17.30

States/UT	Total
Bihar	54.58
Gujarat	78.36
Haryana	24.78
Himachal Pradesh	19.58
Jammu & Kashmir	15.65
Karnataka	91.65
Kerala	12.79
Madhya Pradesh	201.42
Maharashtra	144.01
Manipur	14.38
Meghalaya	19.18
Nagaland	13.86
Orissa	63.84
Punjab	12.30
Rajasthan	199.34
Sikkim	2.81
Tamil Nadu	44.01
Tripura	9.73
Uttar Pradesh	80.61
West Bengal	25.36
UTs	36.04
TOTAL :	1295.74

N.B. The above estimate is not based on a State-by-State survey of all wastelands in the country.

Reduction in rural development plan outlay

1623. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rural Development Plan Outlay may be pruned drastically" appeared in the Economic Times dated 1st July, 1992;

(b) whether it is a fact that poverty alleviation schemes are likely to be drastically pruned;

(c) what are the reduction or proposed reductions in this vital sector; and

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that outlay for rural development is enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.